**Joblessness in Powerloom Sector in Andhra Pradesh**

4947. SHRIP: PRABHAKARREDDY Will,lhe Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that thousands of workers employed in the powerloom and other affiliated units have been rendered jobless in Andhra Pradesh recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to address their problems and place them on way to rehabilitation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) Figures collected by the Textile Commissioner from the State Governments in regard to number of Powerlooms registered and estimated workers employed show that in Andhra Pradesh there was an increase from 43,535 looms and 1,08,838 workers in 2001 to 43,976 looms and 1,09,940 workers till 31.03.2003. On the basis of these figures, it may be said that while some units and their ancillaries might have closed down, due to various reasons which may include financial difficulties, erratic power supply, lack of demand, poor quality of fabric ownership wrangles, labour problem etc., a greater number have been started.

(c) Government has taken several initiatives to facilitate growth in the powerloom industry, which include:

(i) A programme for induction of 50,000 shuttleless and for 2.50 lakh semi-automatic and automatic looms in the decentralised powerloom sector has been announced. Incentives have been made available under the Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) whereby the powerloom owner can reduce the cost of borrowing capital either by availing 12% upfront Capital Linked Subsidy or by obtaining 5% interest reimbursement of on the loan availed.

(ii) Import duty on shuttleless looms has been reduced and excise duty exemption has been given to indigenous automatic looms. Accelerated depreciation benefits at the rate of 50% have been extended on the weaving machinery installed under TUFS.

(iii) Powerloom Service Centres (PSCs), established to provide various services, such as skill upgradation and testing facilities to powerloom

weavers have been upgraded with modem looms, other machinery and equipment to improve the quality of services and facilitation for modernisation.

(iv) Computer Aided Design Centres in Powerloom Service Centers have been established to provide value addition through design inputs into powerloom production.

(v) Powerloom Export Entitlement (PEE) quota has been provided to encourage powerloom exports.

(vi) A Special Group Insurance Scheme has been approved to provide cover to the powerloom workers against death, accident and disability.

**Outstanding dues against Textile Industry**

†4948. SHRI RAJTVRANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that approximately 16,000 crores of rupees is outstanding against textile industry in the country; and

(b) if so, the details of outstanding amount against handloom, powerloom and textile mills, separately ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI B AS AN AGOUD A R. PATTL): (a) and (b) This Ministry only maintains data of credit outstanding against sick textile units. The information is given below:

Outstanding Bank credit to stick textiles units

(In Rs. Crores)

| | Textile Industry | |
|---|---|---|
| Period Ending | No. of Units | Amount Outstanding |
| March 2000 | 514 | 2869.59 |
| March 2001 | 564 | 3362.49 |

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.